



# Virginia Green Outdoors & Sports



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## Caverns of Natural Bridge Natural Bridge, VA



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**Virginia Green** is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, **Virginia Green** encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations, and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

## Caverns of Natural Bridge

The Caverns at Natural Bridge were discovered just before the turn of the 20th century and opened to the public in April 1978. Open seasonally March through November, visitors enjoying the Caverns descend more than 34 stores deep within the Earth to experience the magnificent natural display. The Caverns at Natural Bridge are the deepest on the East Coast. While underground, guests can explore the Natural Bridge Caverns and view their many special features, including several cavern structures such as the Colossal Dome room, an enormous dome shaped natural feature that was created over thousands of years. Other attractions include Mirror Lake, the Well Room and the stalactites and stalagmites that fill the Canyon Room. The Caverns are open daily during the season, with guided tours lasting about 45 minutes and beginning every 30 minutes. Audiences include all age groups, and frequent school, church, scout, and camp groups as well.

The Caverns at Natural Bridge joined Virginia Green to reduce energy use and costs in order to minimize our environmental impact. Sustainable actions must be taken so future generations can enjoy and learn about the geological processes that once formed, and continue to form, these truly amazing structures.

Recently a new LED light system was installed in the Caverns, improving visitor viewing and minimizing energy use.

### Virginia Green Activities

#### This facility pledges that they:

##### Recycle.

- Plastic bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Please identify your recycling vendor(s) or service (the company and/or local government that collects your recyclables) (*required for Virginia Green*): \_\_\_\_\_ C&S Disposal

### **Minimize the use of disposable food service products.**

- Do not use any

### **Reduce solid waste.**

- Track overall solid waste costs (*required for Virginia Green*)
- Remove facility and staff names from junk mail lists when possible
- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Make double-sided photocopies and avoid making extra photocopies
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible

### **Buildings and grounds**

### **Use water efficiently.**

- Track overall water usage and wastewater costs (*required for Virginia Green*)
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Other actions taken related to water conservation & efficiency: Water is not used at the Caverns. We have port-o-johns as restrooms.

### **Conserve energy.**

- Track overall energy bills (*required for Virginia Green*)
- Have had an energy audit to identify efficiency opportunities within the past 12 months
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Other actions taken related to energy conservation & efficiency: Installation of LED light system.

### **Offer a green events package**

- We do not host conferences or events



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For more information on **Caverns of Natural Bridge**, see [www.naturalbridgeva.com/recreation/the-caverns-at-natural-bridge/](http://www.naturalbridgeva.com/recreation/the-caverns-at-natural-bridge/) or contact Carly Pleines at [cpleines@naturalbridgeva.com](mailto:cpleines@naturalbridgeva.com) or 540-458-3776.

For more information on the Virginia Green program, see [www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx](http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx).



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